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INTRODUCTION

DUNLEATH PAPERS

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Dunleath Papers (D1167 and D4179)

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Summary



Lord and Lady Dunleath



The Dunleath Papers fall into two categories: an estate archive (D1167) comprising c.100 volumes and c.4,000 documents, 1765-1970, deposited over the years by successive Lords Dunleath or their agents and representatives; and a personal archive (occupying 22 PRONI boxes and running to c.15,000 documents, mostly in original files or folders) deriving from the 4th Lord Dunleath (1933-1993), deposited in 1998 by his widow, Dorinda, Lady Dunleath (D4179).

Family history

The best and most succinct history of the Mulholland family, Lords Dunleath, is to be found in the second title in the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society's country house series, *Ballywalter Park* (Belfast, 1985). This section of the booklet is by Elizabeth Malcolm.

'Ulster had boasted an important linen industry since the 1690s, but, up until the 1820s, this industry has been dominated by the spinning wheel and the hand loom; it was a domestic industry with spinning and weaving mainly taking place on farms and in villages. In Belfast from the late 1770s mills began to be built, but these were for the spinning of cotton, since as yet the technology did not exist to permit the mechanised spinning of flax. By 1825 there were about 20 cotton mills in Belfast, employing some 3,600 people, centred on the Smithfield area. Two of these mills, in Winetavern and Francis Streets, were owned by the Mulholland family.

The early history of the family is obscure, but Thomas Mulholland (1756-1820) married Ann Doe in Belfast in 1784 and seems to have had at least four sons, William (who went to the West Indies), Thomas (1786-1830), Andrew (1792-1866) and St Clair Kelburn (1798-1872). In 1803 Thomas, the father, who is described as a "dealer", bought two houses in Upper Church Lane, signing the contract with an X – an indication presumably of fairly humble origins. About 1815 the family entered the flourishing cotton industry by purchasing a mill. Thomas died in 1820, but the business continued to expand: in 1822 his sons built a huge spinning mill in the Point Field near York Street. One Sunday morning in June 1828, however, disaster struck when this mill was almost totally destroyed by fire. Yet in fact time was to prove this a most fortuitous disaster for the Mulhollands.



From cotton to linen

Thomas, Andrew and St Clair, with the support of their partner John Hind, decided to rebuild the mill, but for the spinning of flax not of cotton. There seem to have been two main reasons behind this momentous decisions: first, the cotton industry was beginning to experience serious economic problems and second, a method of spinning flax by power machinery had recently been developed. In 1825 James Kay of Preston discovered that flax could be drawn by power spinning machines into a fine yarn ready for weaving if it was first soaked in cold water; this method was called wet spinning. In 1828 and 1829 the Mulhollands visited the north of England to investigate the process and experimented with it successfully in their Francis Street mill. One writer has described their actions as "industrial espionage", but Kay had not patented his process and so there was nothing to stop the Mulhollands from copying it. The new York Street linen mill was opened in the spring of 1830 with 8,000 spindles; by 1856 it had 25,000 and was probably one of the biggest mills of its kind in the world.

Hugh MacCall, a fellow millowner, later wrote: "Many cautious men of that day considered the flaxen yarn project as a very hazardous undertaking, but the sturdy perseverance and mercantile energy which distinguished the house of Mulholland, while they were engaged in the cotton trade, did not wane when they set to work in the other line, and not only did flax-spinning by mechanical power succeed beyond the most sanguine expectations of the firm, but the yarn produced was so much cheaper, and so superior to the finger-spun article, that it gave a new impulse to the manufacture of linen ... Belfast can never forget how much she owes to the house of Mulholland."

MacCall was also impressed by the enormous profits that the Mulhollands were able to make: beyond their "dreamiest imaginings", according to him. Others were quick to follow where the Mulhollands had led and by 1850 there were 29 mills in Belfast spinning flax compared to only four spinning cotton. When the American Civil War (1861-65) virtually cut off the supply of raw cotton to Britain, linens rapidly took the place of cotton textiles and the Belfast linen industry expanded dramatically. Millowners began building weaving factories to house power looms which were superseding the old hand looms and their skilled operators. Thomas Mulholland had died in 1830, but the business was ably carried on by his brother Andrew, later assisted by his son John; T. and A. Mulholland became Andrew Mulholland & Son. Then in 1864, in the midst of the linen boom, the business became a limited company, the York Street Flax Spinning Company Limited, with, according to its prospectus, "the largest flax mill and linen factory in the North of Ireland, covering about four acres of land". St Clair Mulholland had gone into business separately with John Hind, and S.K. Mulholland & Hind (later John Hind & Company) of Durham Street also expanded in the 1860s, building four spinning mills and a weaving factory.



County and civic offices

In addition to their business interests, the Mulhollands also took an active part in civic affairs. St Clair was a J.P. for Co. Down and High Sheriff of Co. Louth and in 1865 he donated money for the erection of a new wing at what was to become the Royal Victoria Hospital. He retired early from his company and took his family of six daughters and one son to live at Eglantine near Hillsborough, but the death of his son in 1861 ended that branch of the family's involvement in the linen industry. His older brother, Andrew, had married Elizabeth

McDonnell in 1818 and had one son and four daughters. He was elected Mayor of Belfast for the year 1845 and in his speech of thanks he promised to "ameliorate the condition of the operatives", suggesting public gardens and washhouses, free libraries and coffee shops, which would "promote their health and cleanliness and give them better tastes". It was a bold and progressive programme, even if, as famine descended on the town, little came of it. Andrew did, however, contribute generously to famine relief. Aside from building Ballywalter Park, to which he moved in 1846, he is perhaps best remembered in Belfast today for having provided the Ulster Hall with its fine Grand Organ in 1862.



Ballywalter Park



John Mulholland, 1st Lord Dunleath



John Mulholland, 1st Baron Dunleath of Ballywalter, 1819-1895

His eldest and only son John (1819-95) was educated at the Royal Academy in Belfast and eventually assumed control of the family interests, which aside from the mills included a substantial amount of land: 13,500 acres in Co. Down and over 1,000 acres near Cookstown in Co. Tyrone. John was noted for his business and financial acumen which carried him well beyond the linen industry. He was, for instance, involved in 1860 in advising the British government during negotiations with the French

over an important commercial treaty regulating trade between the two countries – and, among various other provisions, lowering French duties on flax and linen. He also played a prominent part in organising the finances of the Church of Ireland after it was disestablished in 1869. He was a J.P. and High Sheriff for both Cos Down and Tyrone.

But John Mulholland nursed grander political ambitions. In 1868 he stood as a Conservative candidate, with Sir Charles Lanyon, the architect of Ballywalter, for the seat of Belfast. Both however were defeated, with John coming bottom of the poll. As a millowner he does not seem to have been particularly popular with the working class, a number of whom had gained the vote as a result of the 1868 Reform Act, and they voted for candidates who were more closely identified with popular interests. Yet John persevered and in 1874 he was returned unopposed for Downpatrick, a seat he retained until 1885 [and where his influence, as ground landlord of most of the town, was very strong]. Although he held no political office, he spoke frequently on Irish questions and was a strong supporter of Tory policies. In 1892 he was raised to the peerage, being created Baron Dunleath of Ballywalter, on the recommendation of the outgoing Conservative Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury.

Aside from linen and politics, the 1st Lord Dunleath's other great interest was sailing. His yacht, the 77-foot schooner *Egeria*, built in 1865, dominated racing in her class for many years, winning in all over 60 major prizes. Lord Dunleath died in England in 1895 and was buried at Ballywalter. One obituary writer described him as "an excellent man of business ... an enthusiastic yachtsman, a Tory of the old Ulster school ... and an admirable speaker on commercial subjects". That he was also an extremely wealthy man was revealed when his estate was valued at nearly £600,000. By modern standards this would have made him a multi-millionaire. The Mulhollands, great businessmen and landlords and now peers of the realm, had come a remarkably long way in the 90 years since their illiterate ancestor had scraped together enough money to buy two Belfast houses.



Henry Lyle Mulholland, 2nd Lord Dunleath

Lord Dunleath's eldest son, Andrew, had died in 1877 without an heir and so the title passed to his second son, Henry Lyle (1854-1931). Henry continued in the political paths that his father had pioneered, but he also added a military dimension to the family's achievements. He was educated in England at Eton and Oxford and was a major in the Royal Irish Rifles before winning the seat of Londonderry North for the Conservatives in 1885. He held the seat as a Unionist till he succeeded to his father's title in 1895.

In 1881 he had married a grand-daughter of Lord Bangor of Castleward and by her had four sons and a daughter. All his sons served in the First World War, the eldest, Edward, a captain in the Irish Guards, being killed at Ypres in November 1915. His second son, Charles Henry (1886-1956), who was wounded and awarded the D.S.O., acted as military secretary to Lord French, the last but one Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1919-21) and to Lord Forster, the Governor General of Australia (1923-5). The third son, the Rt Hon. Sir Henry Mulholland (1888-1971), served as a lieutenant (gunnery instructor) with the R.A.F., was elected to Stormont in 1921 as M.P. for Co. Down and in 1929 became Speaker of the Northern Ireland House of Commons. In 1914 he had married Sheelah, a daughter of Sir Arthur [Douglas] Brooke, [4th Bt], and their son, Sir Michael Mulholland ..., [2nd Bt, succeeded briefly as 5th] Lord Dunleath [1993-1997]. The fourth son of the second Baron, Godfrey (1892-1948), was a captain in the Royal Army Signals Corps during the 1914-18 War and won the Military Cross. He later took up a career in business, becoming vice-chairman of Legal and General Insurance and a director of the Westminster Bank. In 1923 he married the Hon. Olivia Harcourt, who served for many years on the boards of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital in London and who from 1950 was a Woman of the Bedchamber to the Queen Mother. She died ... [in 1984].



The 3rd and 4th Lords Dunleath

Henry, the 2nd Baron, was succeeded by his son Charles in 1931. In 1920 Charles had married another daughter of Sir Arthur Brooke, but she died in 1921 and in 1932 he married Henrietta D'Arcy, a daughter of the Archbishop of Armagh. Their only son, Charles Edward Henry John, the 4th ... Lord Dunleath, was born in 1933 and succeeded his father in 1956. He married Dorinda Perceval in 1959.'

Biographical information about the 4th Lord Dunleath will be found at the beginning of the description of his personal papers (D4179).



The Dunleath estate archive (D1167)

This documents the estates of the Mulholland family, mainly in the Downpatrick and Ballywalter areas of Co. Down, but also in Ballymena, Co. Antrim, in the Cookstown area, Co. Tyrone, in Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, and in Belfast, and also to a lesser extent their business activities in the York Street Flax Spinning Co., Belfast.



The Downpatrick estate

The Downpatrick estate formerly belonged to the De Clifford family, who sold it to the Ker family of Montalto, Ballynahinch, Co. Down, in 1832, who in turn sold it to the Mulholland family in 1874.

For the estate in and around Downpatrick there are the following runs of volumes: day books, 1861-1872; cash books, 1839-1872; cash ledgers, 1861-1872; rent ledgers, 1838-1872; rent receipt books, 1872-1875 and 1935-1943; rentals, 1878-1902; market returns, 1906-1954; and wages books, 1910-1959.

Other Downpatrick estate papers include: legal papers and correspondence relating to the sale of 'The Green', Downpatrick, by John Sharrock to D.S. Ker in 1866 and then to W.N. Wallace in 1871; other title deeds, leases and agreements relating to the Downpatrick estate, mainly 1873-1970; a statistical survey, 1861-1863, recording tenants' names, the acreage of their holdings, the acreage in various crops, the number of animals owned by each tenant and the number of cottiers on each farm; maps and plans of Downpatrick and of the Downpatrick estate, c.1830-c.1960; papers, 1852-1945, relating to Downpatrick market, which include printed rules and regulations, 1852, notices about tolls, 1852, 1908 and 1919, etc; papers relating to Quoile harbour, Downpatrick, 1865-1942, which include printed rules and regulations, 1876, notices about quayage and harbour dues, 1865 and 1934, etc; a volume, 1877-1881, containing Downpatrick estate vouchers; legal papers, surveys, maps and valuations relating to the Downpatrick, Killough and Ardglass Light Railway which crossed Dunleath property, 1890-1898; papers relating to Downpatrick Assembly Hall, 1856-1943, including account books relating to the letting of the hall, 1888-1940, and plans, 1907-1933, etc; and a file, 1919-1927, of agents' correspondence relating to the Dunleath estate, mainly in Downpatrick.

An oddment, present by accident, is abstracts of leases, 1766-1847, of the estate of the Earls of Moira of Montalto, Ballynahinch, purchased by the Ker family in 1800. The Mulhollands purchased the Ker estate in Downpatrick, but **not** in Ballynahinch.



The Ards (Ballywalter) estate

Although Ballywalter Park, the seat of the Dunleath family, had a different and earlier provenance (the Matthews family), the vast majority of the Ards estate derived from the Blackwood family of Clondeboye, Bangor, Co. Down. The then head of that family, the 1st Earl of Dufferin (later 1st Marquess of Dufferin and Ava), lived much beyond his means in the period up to the late 1860s and became heavily mortgaged to John Mulholland, later 1st Lord Dunleath, whose acquisition of the Dufferin estate in the barony of Ards, to the north of Ballywalter, was a matter of foreclosure rather than purchase. In the short term, this was an undignified and even false position for Dufferin to be in, because he was a leading Ulster Liberal and prominent on that side in Belfast politics, whereas Mulholland was a leading Belfast Conservative. In the longer term, however, the arrangement benefited both families, because it contributed to establishing John Mulholland as a major Co. Down landowner and it forced Lord Dufferin to concentrate on what became one of the most important late 19th-century British diplomatic and proconsular careers.

A.T. Harrison writes, in 'The 1st Marquess of Dufferin and Ava: Whig, Ulster Landlord and Imperial Statesman' (unpublished D.Phil., N.U.U., 1973): '... By 1867 Dufferin's debts ... [stood at] £254,971. 1s. 11d, and according to calculations made by his agent in late 1871-early 1872 ... had by then increased to £299,171. 1s. 11d Mulholland was in the late 1860s-early 1870s Dufferin's major creditor, but in 1875, when Dufferin's debts were at their peak - £306,371. 1s. 11d - Mulholland held encumbrances on the estate totalling [only] £135,346. 17s. 5d. Mulholland, however, did not need to hold all of Dufferin's encumbrances to exert a strong financial influence ... [which was due, not simply to the] bulk of Mulholland's loans, but more perhaps ... [to] the manner in which Mulholland manipulated them.

Dufferin began borrowing from the Mulholland family in September 1864 when Andrew Mulholland – father of John – the head of this famous Belfast linen manufacturing firm provided him with a mortgage of £21,000. In 1865 Dufferin obtained two further mortgages from this source: £16,000 on 9 March, and £7,000 on 10 October. Andrew Mulholland had amassed a sizeable fortune by the 1860s. It was boosted by the American Civil War, when, with cotton in short supply, his firm had in linen a product that was in great demand. Investment in Dufferin's debts was probably part of a capital diversification plan by Mulholland. There was a limit to the amount of profits it was wise to plough back into his mills, as over-expansion was an obvious danger. The war in America could not last forever, and the post-war linen market would be easily flooded, as the flax-based textile lost its hegemony on the re-appearance of cotton. Andrew Mulholland died in August 1866, and was succeeded by John as head of the family firm. Dufferin obtained his first mortgage from John Mulholland on 18 October 1866. The sum involved was £10,000, and Mulholland ... supplied Dufferin with another £20,000 mortgage in February 1868. In the late 1860s he also began to purchase some of the



Andrew Mulholland

earlier encumbrances charged against the Dufferin estates. In late 1868 Dufferin was indebted to Mulholland for a total of £104,346. 17s. 5d. This figure can be broken down into two sub-totals: £74,000 which stemmed from the direct mortgages the Mulhollands had provided for Dufferin; £30,346. 17s. 5d, the total of four earlier encumbrances purchased by John Mulholland. In 1867-1868 the Mulholland mortgages were slightly more than 40% of Dufferin's total debt. In 1875 they represented just over 44% In 1872, ... the interest payments on these debts alone came to £6,561. 9s. 5d for the year. ...

The Mulholland loans were all made on very short terms with the principal sums repayable after periods of between 3 and 5 years. This meant that the loans made ... in the middle and closing years of the 1860s were repayable by the end of that decade and the middle of the 1870s. Many of Dufferin's earlier encumbrances - including some of those purchased by John Mulholland - were also due for ... repayment at the same time. ... The logical conclusion ... was inescapable: Dufferin was insolvent. He could no longer continue borrowing having reached the position where his future loans would be paying not just interest charges but the actual capital sums of existing debts. If Mulholland remained his major creditor the ludicrous position would be reached where Dufferin would be borrowing money from Mulholland to pay back to the linen baron interest and capital sums related to earlier Mulholland loans, and the extension of these loans would probably have increased the interest rates payable on them. The only way out of the financial mire was for Dufferin to sell all, or a major portion of his estates, and with the capital so realised to pay off his creditors. ...

The Dufferin estates sales took place between 1875 and 1880, and Dufferin's correspondence with his agents, secretary and Downpatrick solicitor for this period is dominated by details of the sales negotiations, and their ratification by the Landed Estates Court. A large bloc of ... [Dufferin's] acreage lay ... within the rectangle cornered by the small towns of Killyleagh, Comber, Saintfield and Crossgar, ... to the west of Strangford Lough. ... [Dufferin] also held three other estates in the extreme north-eastern corner of the county. One was positioned on the shores of Belfast Lough, west of the seaside town of Bangor. This estate centred around the family seat of ... [Clandeboye]. The smallest estate of all was on the other side of Bangor, at Ballyholme, and the last property – somewhat isolated from the rest - lay on the Irish Sea coast of the Ards Peninsula, composed of a group of townlands in the neighbourhood of ... Ballywalter. At first Dufferin wanted to restrict the sales to established gentlemen, but later as the harsh economic reality of his position sank home, he had to countenance the purchase of his property by men of business and industry like Mulholland. Indeed he drafted a prospectus describing his property which was designed directly to appeal to Ulster's *nouveau riche* entrepreneurs. ... The purchasers ... were largely local men of business - Mr R.G. Dunville the head of the Belfast distilling firm bought land to the value of £125,000 – ... Dufferin later felt sorry for [him] when property values fell, in the face of renewed agrarian agitation and further Gladstonian land reform. ...

A [more] telling illustration of the social changes reflected by these sales is ... the steady climb of ... John Mulholland. ... Mulholland had been defeated in the 1868 parliamentary election in Belfast, and in the late 1860s and 1870s he was trying to develop a solid property, social and political base in Co. Down. In 1868 he was

appointed sheriff of the county and in 1874 he became M.P. (Tory) for Downpatrick. By 1876 he owned 6,769 acres in the county with a yearly rental of £10,668. He held another 1,244 acres worth £1,530 annually in Co. Tyrone, where he was also appointed sheriff in 1873. Mulholland obtained Dufferin's Ards estate during the sales. It was adjacent to his county seat, Ballywalter Park, the ownership of which obviously obviated any social need for him to buy Clandeboye House and its demesne [which Dufferin was, with a heavy heart, prepared to sell ...]. Ballywalter Park, his existing estates, the newly acquired Dufferin acres and his large fortune and public philanthropy, all secured Mulholland's position as an established gentleman. This social success was rewarded in 1892 when he was created Baron Dunleath of Ballywalter, Co. Down. ...

... The Mulholland mortgages ... [had all been] obtained by Dufferin through the ... [instrumentality] of his Downpatrick solicitor W.N. Wallace, who by allowing such a large bloc of debts to be held by one creditor gave Mulholland great power in relation to the Dufferin property, and severely restricted Dufferin's room for financial manoeuvre. With his skilful handling of the loans – their short term duration and capital repayment over the same period as longstanding debts due against the Dufferin property – Mulholland inexorably forced Dufferin's back over a financial barrel, and it may be that by getting such a stranglehold on the impecunious peer he obtained the Ards property at a knockdown price. Whatever the truth of the matter, Dufferin claimed that the sales had been mismanaged by his solicitor and agent. He thought that the pair were working against his interest at this time, and evidence exists which shows that, on the eve of the sales, the agent, Mortimer Thomson, was discovered by auditors to have been guilty of financial impropriety. ... [Although] Dufferin retained Thomson as his agent during the sales, ... all financial authority was taken out of his hands Dufferin may ... have feared that Thomson, with his knowledge of the encumbrances on the property, could if dismissed, have sabotaged the success of the sales by leaking the truth of his former employer's parlous finances. ... He could not prevent Mulholland from knowing the truth, but there was no reason why the other potential purchasers should also gain this insight Mulholland and the others would undoubtedly have used such knowledge to force Dufferin to a hard bargain when obtaining the acres necessary for their upward social thrust, and what to them would have been shrewd business sense, would to Dufferin have appeared ungentlemanly sharp practice. ...

[John Mulholland, 1st Lord Dunleath] died in 1895, and his will was probated at £583,266 gross; by comparison, when Dufferin died seven years later his gross ... [estate] was £108,548. Mulholland, a businessman to the end, "... was said to have divided the chief part of his property among his children a week over the year before his death and so to have saved the succession duty. ..." '



Ballywalter Park

As the late (4th) Lord Dunleath observed: 'Everyone thought this old place was a Victorian white elephant until Sir John Betjeman visited us, in 1961, and was so ecstatic about the house we've been rushing about, ever since, trying to preserve it!'



Library at Ballywalter Park

The original house was built in the 1730s shortly after a family called Matthews acquired what was then known as the Springvale estate. Major George Matthews of the Downshire Militia had major building work carried out between 1805 and 1812. It is open to debate whether he built a new house from scratch or enlarged a house which was already there. What is known, however, is that when Andrew Mulholland purchased the estate in 1847, he promptly commissioned the architect, Charles (later Sir Charles) Lanyon, completely to refashion the existing house. Using the main structural walls, he heightened it by the provision of an additional storey

and extended it in area by adding wings to the north and south elevations. The location of the front door was also moved from the south to the east elevation and the new entrance was enhanced by provision of a *porte cochere*.

The main part of the work was finished by 1849 though the Conservatory (also of Lanyon's design) was not added to the north-west of the house until 1862/1863. The stable yard was part of Major Matthews's early 19th-century scheme and so it may be assumed that this also was the style of the house prior to 1846. Also attributable to the Matthews family is the remaining stand of hardwoods which forms the framework to the present garden and parkland. Ring counts indicate that the oaks and beeches date from 1800 and are for the most part over-mature. By 1850, in keeping with Andrew Mulholland's aspirations, the name of the house had been changed from Springvale to Ballywalter Park.

Writing in the U.A.H.S.'s already-mentioned *Ballywalter Park*, Alistair Rowan describes the house as '... a classic example of an early Victorian country house and of a type of architecture that was particularly popular at that time, the palazzo style. The values that its architecture expresses are positive and straightforward. It is a large house, not elaborate in its individual features but built to a bold scale with well-placed cornices of ample proportions, a select and limited repertoire of classical motifs, and a sense of mass that gives the building a distinct authority despite its breezy location on the Ards peninsula. What we see today on approaching the house and its forecourt set on a slight rise, or on looking back from the pleasure grounds to the west, is a piece of architecture of conscious symbolic intent: Ballywalter is built as a monument to personal success, enshrining the values and the achievements of Andrew Mulholland Today we might look askance at such symbolic building, yet there is nothing ostentatious in Mr Mulholland's great house. It is the home of a successful early industrialist, a public-spirited and thoroughly responsible man who

had risen in the world through his own efforts and who chose as an appropriate architectural style for his house the authority of the palazzo style. ...'

Generations subsequent to Andrew Mulholland and the 1st Lord Dunleath have left their mark on Ballywalter Park. Planting continued throughout the 19th century, though by that time the emphasis was more on softwoods, probably with the object of obtaining as much shelter from the east wind as possible. The walled kitchen garden, which may well have been of Lanyon's design also, is now mainly used for commercial production, though the Victorian glasshouses have been retained, as have the ornamental rose garden and pergola, as amenity areas. The rock and water garden was the concept of the 2nd Lord Dunleath (Andrew Mulholland's grandson) and was executed about the turn of the century. Past the pond which is part of the complex is the Rose Hill which was developed by the 3rd Lord Dunleath as a sheltered area for specimen Rhododendrons. During the 4th Lord Dunleath's time, an enormous amount of restoration work ... [was] carried out on the house, but no significant additions ... [were] made to the plantings. Rather, a considerable amount of clearing ... [was] effected.



The Ards (Ballywalter) estate archive

Today, the Ballywalter estate, run by Dunleath Estates Ltd, comprises over 1,000 acres, with dairy cattle, beef cattle and cereals as the specialities and horticulture an alternative and additional activity. Because it is still very much a 'going concern', many papers relating to it have been retained, as have papers relating to the house. The archive does however include: title deeds, leases and agreements relating to the Ballywalter and Ards estates, 1802-1966; Ballywalter estate rentals, 1888-1912, and Ards estate rentals, 1877-1940; damp-press copy out-letter books, 1880-1970; and general estate correspondence, 1880-1970.



The Cookstown estate

This estate, as has been seen, comprised 1,244 acres with a valuation in 1876 of £1,530 per annum. It probably derived from the Stewart family of Killymoon Castle, Cookstown, whose entire estate had been put up for sale in 1850. In the Dunleath archive, it is represented by title deeds, leases and agreements, 1765-1896, rentals, mainly 1900-1968, and rent receipt books, 1918-1956.



Belfast-related material

This includes: an illuminated address of 31 December 1845 to Andrew Mulholland, as retiring mayor of Belfast, with his reply; title deeds, leases and agreements relating to property in Belfast, 1767 and 1821-1869, including the York Street Flax Spinning Mills; rentals for the Belfast estate, 1900-1908, 1935-1950 and 1953-1958; rent receipt books for the Belfast estate, 1950-1971; and a scrap book, c.1940s, containing genealogical material, newspaper cuttings, etc, about the Mulholland family and histories of the York Street Flax Spinning Co. Ltd, Belfast, founded by Thomas and Andrew Mulholland in 1822.



Miscellaneous estate papers

There are also some miscellaneous estate papers, relating either to other places or to matters which it has proved difficult to identify. These include: title deeds and leases to property in Ballymena, 1825-1850, and to a corn mill and kiln in Coleraine, 1832-1869; cash books, 1875-1966; cash ledgers, 1875-1959; and papers relating to property at Diaper Hill, Magherana, Co. Down, 1827-c.1930, including a copy of the will of Richard Brown of Magherana, 1827.



Personal papers of the 4th Lord Dunleath (D4179)

Lord Dunleath was born in London in 1933 and died in 1993. He was educated at Elm Park School, Co. Armagh. He specialized in science at Eton, and later took a linguistic course in France. He served in the 67th Training Regiment of the RAC, the Mons Officer Cadet Training Unit and 11th Hussars (where he became a 2nd Lieutenant). Then followed an Agricultural Degree Course at Trinity College, Cambridge. However, his interest in the army never waned, and in 1954 he joined the TA regiment, the North Irish Horse, becoming Lt.-Colonel Commanding from 1967 to 1969. He became Honorary Colonel in 1981. From 1971 to 1973 he was a Captain in the Ulster Defence Regiment. His honours include a TA decoration and a U.D.R. medal. He was also a D.L. for Co. Down.

His business interests, apart from the chairmanship of Dunleath Estates Ltd., were numerous, starting in c.1965. For over ten years, in each case, he was Chairman of Carreras Rothmans (N.I.) Ltd.; a Director of Crossle Cars Ltd.; a N.I. Director of the Eagle Star Group; and Chairman of Templefinn Estates Ltd. For seven years he was a Director of Victor (Cars) Ltd. and, from 1979 to 1984, he was Chairman of Northern Ireland Independent Television Ltd.

He also found time for many voluntary and charitable activities. A Life Member and former President of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, he held several related offices, including Senior Trustee of the Gibson Trust Fund (which aided small farmers) and a member of the Ulster Farmers' Union Council. He was a Committee Member of the Not Forgotten Association; County Vice-President of the Royal British Legion; President of the Grand Opera Society of Northern Ireland; President of the Road Safety Council of Northern Ireland; President of N.I.A.C.R.O.; Chairman of the N.I. Association for Mental Health; Chairman of the British Institute of Management; and N.I. representative of the King George's Jubilee Trust. He served on the Local Enterprise Development Committee in the mid-1960s. Other offices included: President of the Society of Professional Musicians; Committee Member of St Albans's International Organ Festival; President of Bangor Drama Club; Chairman of the Music in May Organ Festival; and Member of Down and Dromore Diocesan Council. He was also President of the Northern Ireland Children's Cancer Unit Fund and Patron of five charitable organisations - the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association; Newtownards Y.M.C.A.; the Harmony Community Trust; Dismass House; and the National Schizophrenia Fellowship's 'Haven Project'.

As Vice-President of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, he always listed the restoration of steam engines as one of his greatest hobbies. He also had a passion for sports cars and, over the years, competed in track and road races and hill-climbs, driving such famous cars as a Frazer Nash and an ex-TT Lagonda. Ballywalter Park contained a fine collection of vintage and post-vintage cars, including a Bristol which Lord Dunleath gave to his wife, Dorinda Perceval, when they married in 1959.

One of his absorbing interests was in the restoration of organs, including that of the Ulster Hall's Grand Organ, which was presented in 1861 by his great-great grandfather, Andrew Mulholland, after he was Mayor of Belfast. A regular church-

goer, and member of Ballywalter Parish Church Choir - he was a Member of the Down Cathedral Board and Chairman of the Down Cathedral Restoration Appeal, a Member of Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod, and a Member of the General Synod.

In his recently published *Down Cathedral: The Church of Saint Patrick of Down* (UHF, Belfast, 1997), J. Frederick Rankin provides a number of reminders of the importance of the 4th Lord Dunleath's contribution to the restoration of the Down Cathedral organ, and of the cathedral generally. His commitment to the Church of Ireland was a family as well as a personal one, his mother having been the daughter of Dr C.F. Darcy, sometime Bishop of Down and Dromore and subsequently Archbishop of Armagh. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, '... the screen and pulpitum were found to be unsafe and required to be completely rebuilt. It was thought necessary to consult Sir Albert Richardson, President of the Royal Academy, who suggested that the organ console might be relocated on the ground floor, with the screen being glazed, so that there would be an uninterrupted view from the west door to the sanctuary. With great foresight, the young Lord Dunleath decided to enlist the moral help of Sir John Betjeman ..., [who wrote a characteristically witty, tactful and effective letter to Sir Albert Richardson in February 1962]. ... Plans survive for the proposed alterations prepared ... presumably at the behest of Sir Albert Richardson, but with hindsight, one can only be eternally thankful that the wiser counsel of John Betjeman prevailed. The screen and pulpitum were replaced just as they had been Also replaced were the two east end aisle windows as a memorial to the 3rd Lord Dunleath.

Harrison & Harrison of Durham were again called in to carry out a major rebuild of the organ at the same time that the structural repairs were being carried out. ... [Harrison's had not actually worked on the organ more recently than 1914 and, although in Lord Dunleath's view ..., 'perhaps regrettable, the conversion from tracker to tubular pneumatic action [which they carried out] ... stood the test of time insofar as the organ [had] remained trouble free for almost another half century'.] ... The cathedral was closed [in the mid-1960s] for over twelve months and, just as we have Sir John Betjeman to thank for retaining the pulpitum and screen, we have the late Lord Dunleath to thank for drawing up the specification of the rebuilt organ. His specification enabled the organ to be used as a recital organ, on which organists of international repute were able to perform, in addition to its capability as accompaniment to cathedral worship.

Kenneth James, the organ voicer of Harrison & Harrison, thought the organ was [one of] the finest three manual instruments in Britain. Cecil Clutton of the Organ Advisory Committee to the Council for the Care of Churches, wrote: "If the 1914 rebuild was a model, that of 1966 is a triumph of good taste So perfectly are its modest tonal forces deployed that there is hardly a musical contingency to which it is not equal, which is more than can be said for many cathedral organs more than twice its size. In the proportioning of its parts and the sheer beauty of its tone, it may well come to be regarded by competent judges as exceeded by few, if any. ..." '



Lord Dunleath's political career

Lord Dunleath - who took his seat in the House of Lords in 1957 – was 'an inactive Member of the Unionist Party' before giving up any involvement in politics while Northern Ireland representative among the National Governors of the BBC from 1967 to 1973. In 1973, he stood successfully for the Alliance Party in North Down in the election for the Northern Ireland Assembly of that year. When this was dissolved, in 1974, he was elected to the Northern Ireland Constitutional Convention and when that too was dissolved after a year, he was elected as a Member of Ards Borough Council, on which he served between 1977 and 1985. From 1982, he was a Member and Assistant Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly until it was dissolved on 23 June 1986.

Lord Dunleath was to become an active member of the House of Lords and was for many years the voice of the Alliance Party at Westminster. In 1977 he successfully sponsored legislation in the Lords to provide for integrated education for Protestant and Catholic schoolchildren, whenever there was sufficient demand from parents. He also brought forward a bill to bring Northern Ireland divorce law broadly into line with that of England and Wales, which led the government to pass similar legislation for Northern Ireland on 26 May 1978. He resigned temporarily from the Alliance Party in 1979 in order to make an unsuccessful bid for Northern Ireland's Independent Television franchise. In 1990, he represented Alliance at the inaugural meeting of the British-Irish Parliamentary Body. In November 1990, he resigned permanently from the Alliance Party on his appointment as a D.L. for Co. Down.



The archive

In a letter written on 5 October 1989, Lord Dunleath stated that 'With the dissolution of the last Northern Ireland Assembly on 23rd June 1986, I threw away most of the material which had accumulated during my thirteen years of active participation in politics' [see D4179/1/9/1]. Although there are therefore many gaps in his political papers, they run from 1969 to 1992 and are far from being devoid of interest. They include: marked up and slightly 'Grangerised' *Hansards* relating to bills sponsored by Lord Dunleath or in which he took an active interest; mainly printed, but some Ms, material relating to his membership of the Northern Ireland Convention, 1975-1976; papers about his successful bill to provide for integrated education in Northern Ireland, 1977, and his private member's, followed by a government, bill to bring Northern Ireland divorce law broadly into line with that of the rest of the UK, 1977-1978; and papers about the setting-up of the inaugural meeting of the British-Irish Parliamentary Party, at which he represented the Northern Ireland Alliance Party, 1990.

Indeed, all the activities and interests recorded in this short resumé of his life, with the exception of those relating to his TA and UDR service and to most of his business activities, are reasonably well represented – some of them exceptionally well represented – in the archive. Papers of this character include: genealogical notes, typescript copies of diaries of members of the Mulholland family, photographs, etc, all relating to Mulholland family history, 1857-1985; papers relating to the restoration of the organ in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick, which had been presented to the cathedral in 1802 by King George III, 1897-1914, and Lord Dunleath's papers relating to the restoration of the organ and of Down Cathedral itself, 1983-1992; correspondence, architects' plans, etc, relating to the maintenance and restoration of (mainly church) organs throughout Ireland, 1862-1993; correspondence, minutes, programmes and other printed matter relating to TT racing and to Lord Dunleath's chairmanship of the Ulster Vintage Car Club, 1935-1995; correspondence, minutes, etc, relating to his position within most of the already-mentioned charities and societies, 1969-1992; correspondence, minutes, press releases, programmes and photographs relating to Lord Dunleath and the 'Music in May' festivals and organ recitals held in Ballywalter Church, 1970-1991; correspondence, minutes, reports, photographs and printed matter relating to Lord Dunleath's keen interest in the restoration of steam engines, 1970-1995; correspondence, reports, etc, relating to his involvement in the proposals for the establishment of the Northern Ireland Independent Television Channel, 1980-1990; and correspondence, etc, relating to his role as a Diocesan Lay Reader in the Diocese of Down and Dromore and as a prominent Church of Ireland layman generally, 1988-1992.

